

CHAPTER 3

BUILDING ACCESSORIES

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ATM Machines
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Vending Machines

INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the guidelines deals with a number of different design issues regarding accessories to properties that require approval of a certificate of appropriateness by the Boards of Architectural Review.

This chapter is organized alphabetically and should be used in conjunction with the chapters on NEW CONSTRUCTION and ADDITIONS.

This chapter primarily is concerned with additions or accessories to commercial properties in the historic districts. However, some accessories such as satellite antennas are also found on residential buildings.

When considered individually, many of these items may seem relatively minor in nature; however, the cumulative effect of inappropriate small scale additions to buildings in the historic districts will erode the overall historic and architectural cohesiveness that make the districts significant.

Some of the building accessories discussed require issuance of a building permit by Code Enforcement, while others do not. Specific information on building permit requirements and the costs may be obtained from Code Enforcement, Room 4200, City Hall, 301 King Street. Telephone: (703)838-4360.

The information contained in the Design Guidelines applies to both the Old and Historic Alexandria District and the Parker-Gray District unless otherwise noted.

Illustrations are provided for information only. Applications for certificates of appropriateness are reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES (ATMs)

INTRODUCTION

ATM machines that are visible from a public way require the approval of a certificate of appropriateness by the Boards of Architectural Review.

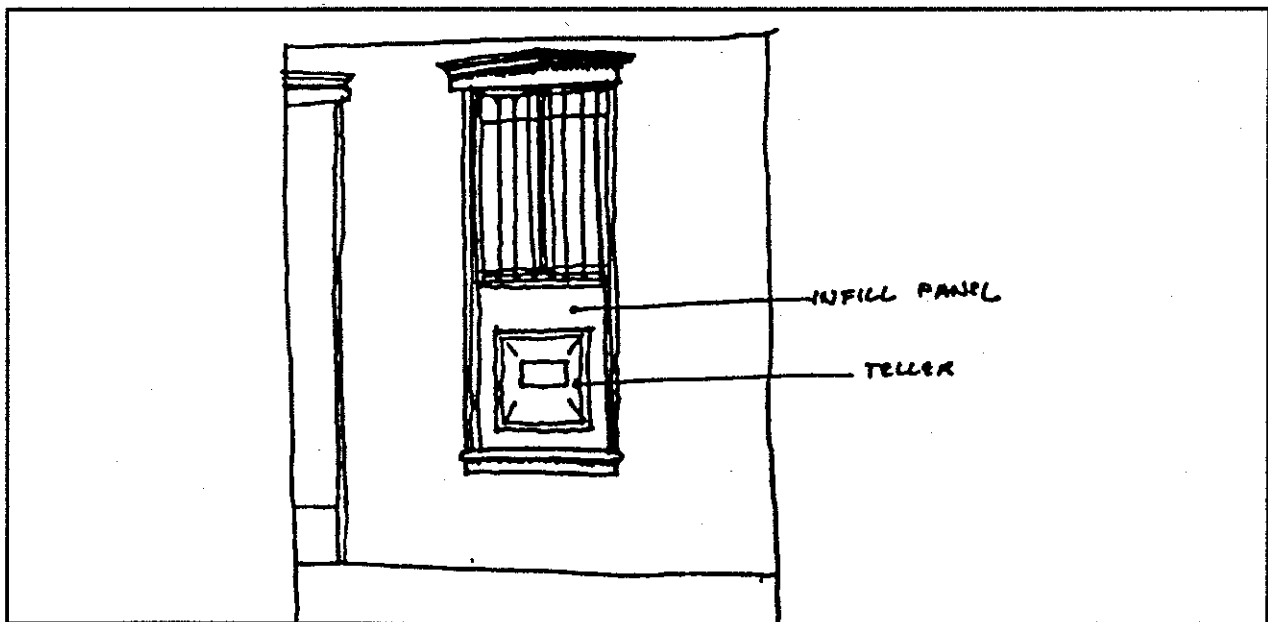
Although ATM machines have gained great popularity since the mid-1980s, as alterations to existing properties in the historic district such devices are incompatible with the historic character of the districts. However, the Boards are cognizant of the desirability of such devices and, as such, have approved their installation in a number of locations in the historic districts.

REQUIREMENTS

- ATMs must meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

GUIDELINES

- ATM machines should not be located on the most visually prominent or architecturally important facade of a structure.
- ATM machines should not be installed in such a way as to harm historic architectural elements.
- ATM machines should be as small as possible while meeting necessary banking requirements.
- The lighting of ATM machines should be at as low a level as possible while meeting safety requirements.
- Whenever possible ATM machines should be located in minimally visible areas of building such as recesses, entry ways and courtyards, consistent with requirements for safety of users.



Proposal to locate an ATM in an existing window opening.

SOURCE: 100 South Fairfax Street, BAR Case #84-205

- The design for the ATM should contain provisions for disposal of litter.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to properly evaluate the appropriateness of the design of a proposed ATM, the Boards of Architectural Review require that an accurate depiction of the design be presented. Sketches are not acceptable. Most designs for ATMs presented to the Board of Architectural Review are prepared by a professional designer.

All applications for approval of ATMs must contain the following information:

Alexandria Business License

Proof of a valid Alexandria Business License is required at the time of application for contractors, subcontractors, architects and designers.

Photograph of Existing Building

Clear photographs of the existing building are required for reference.

Placement

The drawing must accurately show the placement of the ATM on the building.

Size

The drawing must accurately depict the size of the ATM.

Color

The color of the ATM must be indicated and an actual color sample provided.

Type

A cut sheet or manufacturer's specifications listing for the ATM including dimensions must be included in the application.

Surface Material

The material to be used for the surface of the ATM must be specified and an actual material sample provided.

Illumination

The source, location and level of illumination provided by the ATM must be provided.

RELATED SECTION

Signs

NOTE: Illustrations are provided for information only. Applications for certificates of appropriateness are reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

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STREET FURNITURE

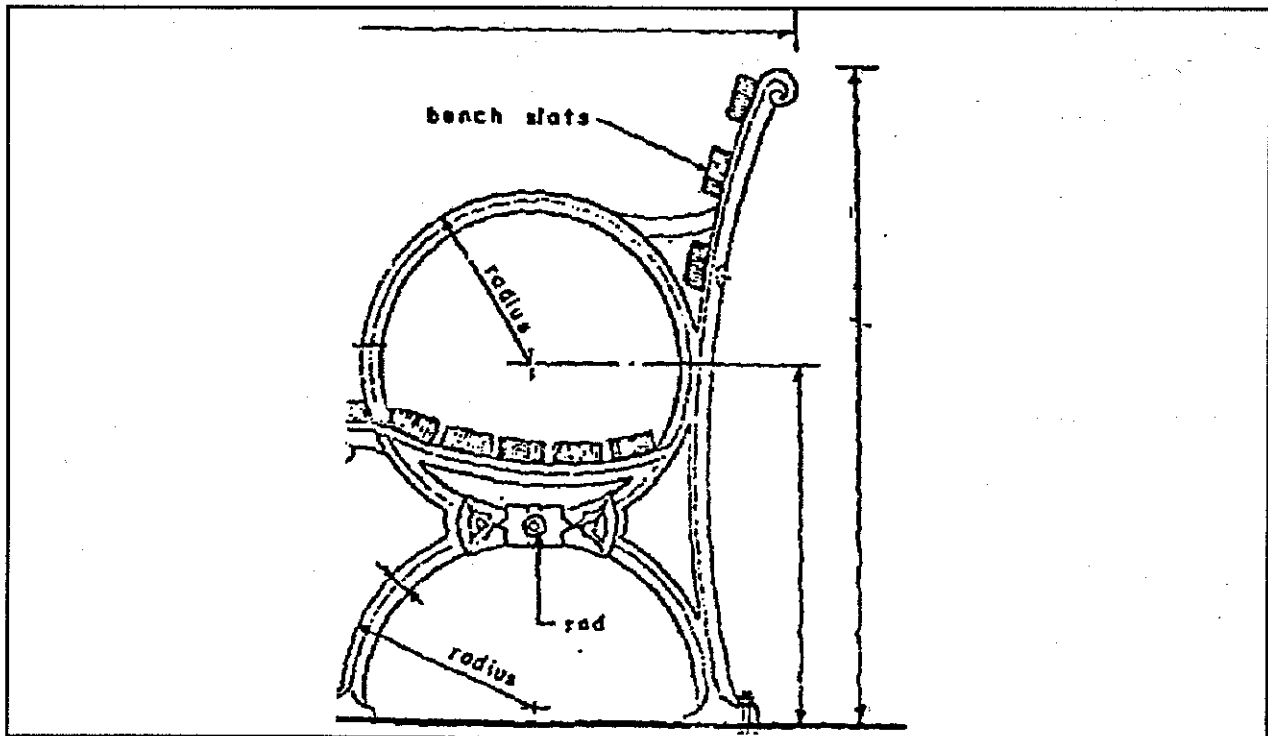
INTRODUCTION

Street furniture is part of the overall design of the streetscape and includes such things as benches, light poles, bus shelters, bollards, public telephones, trash receptacles and vending boxes in the public right-of-way. All street furniture, whether or not related to a governmental function, requires the approval of a certificate of appropriateness by the Boards of Architectural Review.

Street furniture is one of the principal elements that creates the overall visual impression of a streetscape. It should not detract from or visually interfere with the architectural character of the street.

REQUIREMENTS

- All street furniture located in the public right-of-way requires the approval of the Director, Transportation and Environmental Services.
- Permanent street furniture erected in the public right-of-way requires passage of an encroachment ordinance by City Council.
- Street furniture must meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- In commercial zones, bus shelters on private land require a Special Use Permit.
- In residential zones, bus shelters are permitted on private land with a Special Use Permit.
- Street furniture must maintain a vision clearance at street corners for purposes of transportation safety. In such instances, street furniture may be no higher than 42". This requirement can be waived by the



Application for bus benches.

SOURCE: 112 N. Washington Street, BAR Case #91-32, Michael S. Rolband Company

Boards of Architectural Review upon application. (See § 7-800 of the Zoning Ordinance)

- A plat of the property is required at the time of application for a building permit to provide verification of the vision clearance.

ENCROACHMENTS FOR STREET FURNITURE

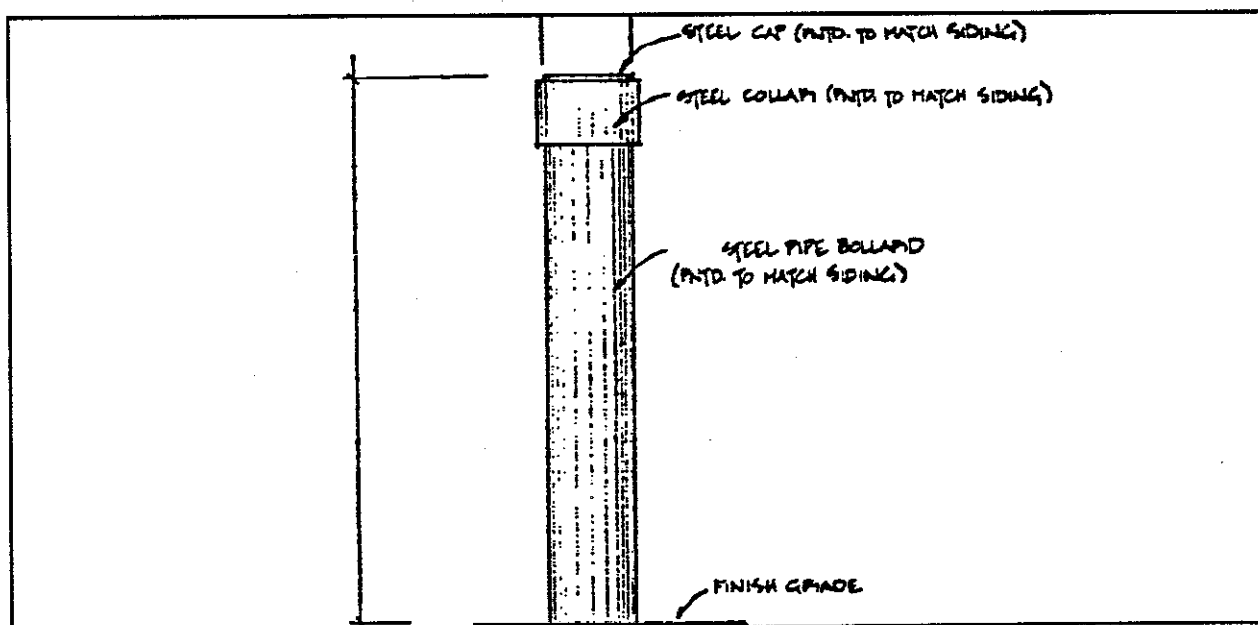
Placement of permanent street furniture in the public right-of-way, such as a sidewalk or alley, requires approval of an encroachment ordinance by the City Council prior to installation, under the provisions of § 9-104 of the Zoning Ordinance. The encroachment ordinance gives the building owner permission to utilize public space of the City for private use and requires indemnity of the City. Applications for encroachments are made to the Department of Planning and Community Development. The request is reviewed by the Planning Commission and decided by the City Council.

It is the policy of the B.A.R. to review the design of proposed street furniture which require encroachments before consideration by the Planning Commission. The recommendation of the B.A.R. on the design of the

street furniture is considered along with other factors by the Planning Commission in making a recommendation to City Council regarding the encroachment. If the encroachment ordinance is passed by City Council, a certificate of appropriateness will be issued and an owner can erect the street furniture as soon after enactment of the ordinance as a building permit can be obtained.

GUIDELINES

- Street furniture should be made of materials that are appropriate to the building materials in the historic districts. For example, benches made of metal and wood are appropriate in the historic districts.
- Street furniture made of synthetic materials such as fiberglass or concrete is not appropriate in the historic districts.
- Street furniture should not be installed so that it hides, obscures or causes the removal of historic architectural details.



Application for bollards.

SOURCE: 110 S. Fayette Street, BAR Case # 91-92, Richard Salopek, Architect

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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In order to properly evaluate the appropriateness of proposed street furniture the Boards of Architectural Review requires that an accurate depiction of the design be presented. Sketches that are not to scale are not acceptable.

All applications for approval of street furniture must contain the following information:

Alexandria Business License

Proof of a valid Alexandria Business License is required at the time of application for contractors, subcontractors, architects, and designers.

Photograph of Site

Clear photographs of surrounding buildings and the site are required for reference.

Plot Plan

A plot plan accurately showing the location of the proposed street furniture is required.

Drawing

A drawing or manufacturer's cut sheet accurately depicting the street furniture is required.

Size

The drawing must accurately indicate the dimensions of the street furniture.

Materials

The materials to be used for the street furniture must be specified.

Color

If the street furniture is to be painted, the color must be indicated and an actual color sample provided.

RELATED SECTIONS

Planters

Vending Machines

NOTE: Illustrations are provided for information only. Applications for certificates of appropriateness are reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

SATELLITE ANTENNAS

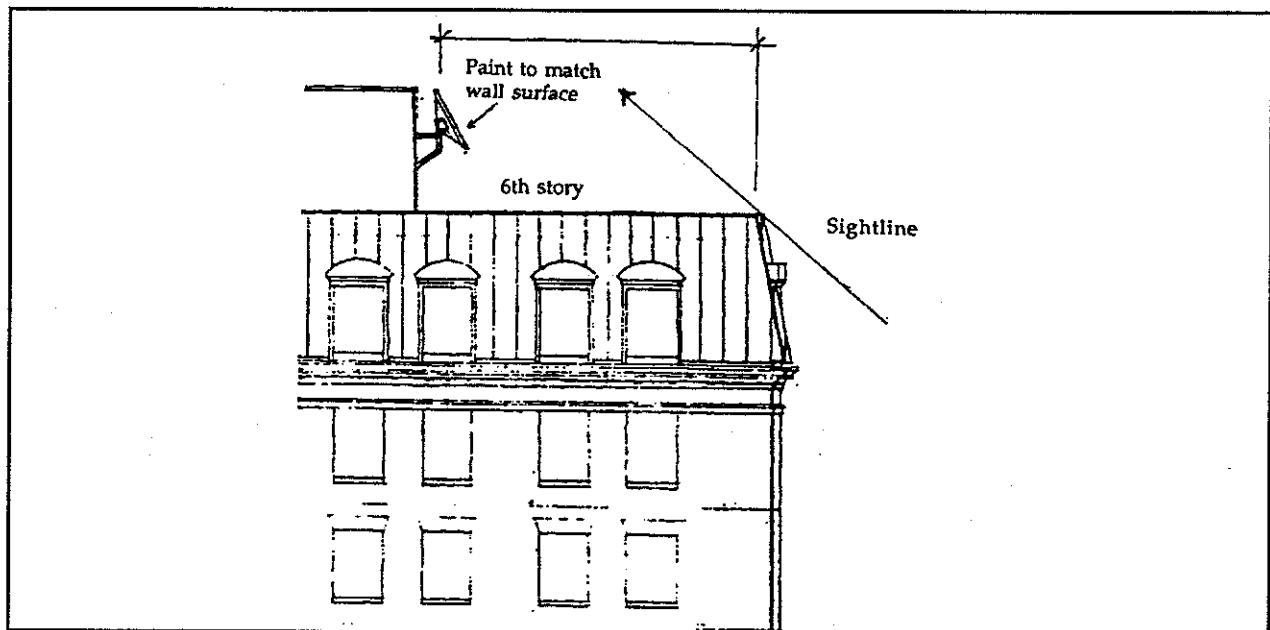
INTRODUCTION

Satellite antennas or dishes either on residential or commercial buildings that are visible from a public way require the approval of a certificate of appropriateness by the Boards of Architectural Review.

Although the use of satellite antennas for reception and transmission by both businesses and individuals has greatly increased since the mid-1980s, such structures are incompatible with the historic character of the districts. Satellite antennas that are visible from a public way are strongly discouraged in the historic districts. Under Federal rules and regulations, local governments are entitled to control the appearance and location of satellite dishes.

REQUIREMENTS

- All applications for B.A.R. approval of satellite antennas must comply with the requirements of the zoning regulations prior to consideration by the Board. The specific requirements may be obtained from the Zoning Division.
- Satellite antennas require approval of an administrative permit issued by the Director, Planning and Community Development (§ 6-403(D) of the Zoning Ordinance).
- Satellite antennas cannot exceed the established building height limitation in the historic districts.
- Satellite antennas must meet the requirements of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC).
- Satellite antennas less than 12' in height above the ground do not require building permits, but are subject to the location requirements of the USBC § 622.1.
- Satellite antennas require a building permit if attached to a building.



Elevation drawing of satellite antenna located on an office rooftop. The dish is set well back from the street on the building parapet away from the principle street elevation of the building.

SOURCE: 524 King Street, SUP #2570, Greenhorne & O'Mara

GUIDELINES

- Satellite antennas or dishes should be located on the least visually prominent area of a structure, consistent with functional requirements.
- Satellite antennas or dishes should be as small as possible consistent with the requirements for reception and transmission.
- If a satellite antenna must be located in a prominent visual position on a building or the ground, screening with fencing materials or vegetation is required.
- Satellite antennas on office buildings can often be partially or completely obscured behind a building parapet.
- Satellite antennas should be mounted as far back from the roof line of a building as possible to reduce visibility.
- Satellite antennas or dishes should be painted to match the predominant color of the roof to limit visibility from a public way.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to properly evaluate the appropriateness of the design of a proposed satellite antenna, the Boards of Architectural Review require that an accurate depiction of the design be presented. Sketches that are not to scale are not acceptable. Most designs for satellite antennas presented to the Boards of Architectural Review are prepared by a professional designer; however, such a professionally prepared submission is not mandatory.

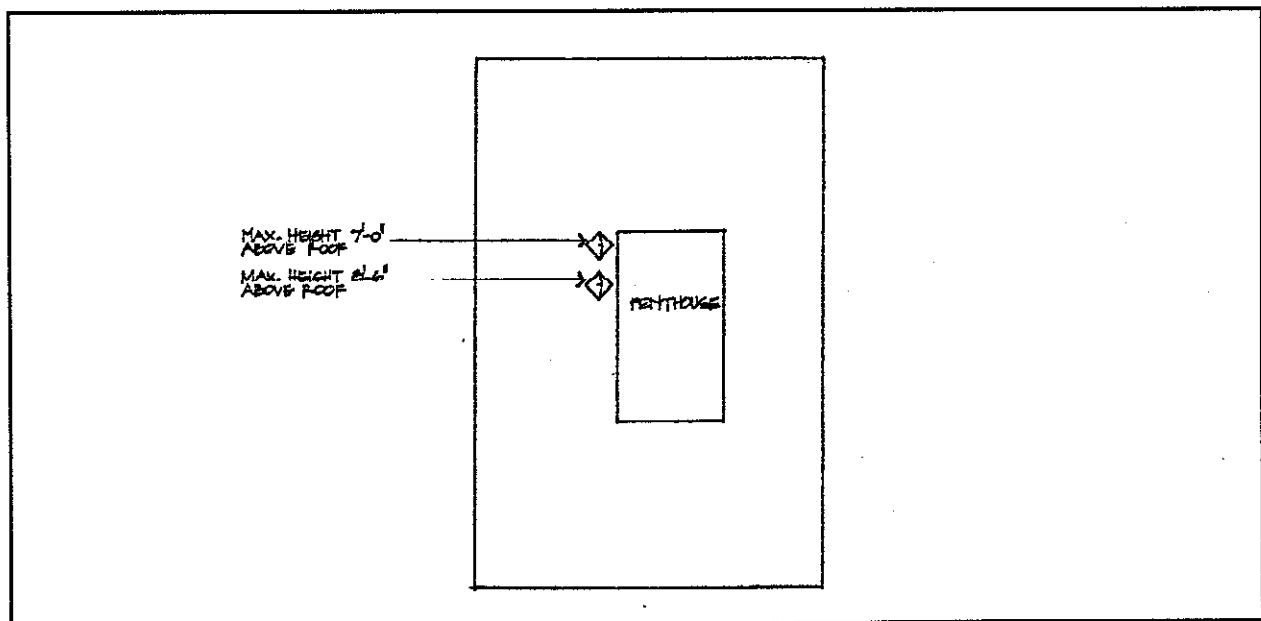
All applications for approval of satellite antennas must contain the following information:

Alexandria Business License

Proof of a valid Alexandria Business License is required at the time of application for contractors, subcontractors, architects and designers.

Photograph of Existing Building

A clear photograph of the existing building is required for reference.



Example of roof plan for installation of a satellite antenna.

SOURCE: 211 N. Union Street, BAR Case #90-102, Cole & Denny, Architects

Plat

A plat of the property accurately showing the location of the building on the lot and the location of the satellite antenna is required.

Roof Plan

A roof plan accurately showing the location of the satellite antenna or dish is required.

Size

The drawing must accurately indicate the dimensions of the antenna or dish. In addition, a cut sheet or manufacturer's specifications accurately depicting the antenna or dish must be included in the application.

Screening

Screening material must be specified and the color indicated.

Color

The color of the antenna or dish must be indicated and an actual color sample provided.

NOTE: Illustrations are provided for information only. Applications for certificates of appropriateness are reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

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VENDING MACHINES

Exterior vending machines, except newspaper vending machines, which are visible from a public way require the approval of a certificate of appropriateness by the Board of Architectural Review.

While vending machines serve a number of functions in the late-20th century, they are incompatible with the historic character and streetscape of the historic districts. It is the policy of the Boards to not approve exterior vending machines in the historic districts. It is the opinion of the Boards that exterior vending machines are visually blighting influences and should not be permitted in the historic districts. Additionally, vending machines inside buildings which are used as signs are strongly discouraged.

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ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, 5/25/93